



Office of Title I Academic Support Differentiated Accountability

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What are the requirements for Choice and Supplemental Educational Services (SES) for school year 2008-2009?

Choice is offered to all students when a school is in improvement status. SES is offered for all poverty students for schools in year 2 and beyond. If a school is in the Comprehensive Group, the school will need to have SES open enrollment or multiple enrollment periods, allow SES tutors to provide services at the school site, and provide transportation in accordance with IDOE guidelines*. For schools in year 4 or higher in the Focused Group, SES tutors must be allowed to provide services at the school site, and there must be SES open enrollment or multiple enrollment periods. Transportation should be available during summer months if funding is still available.

Minimum transportation guidelines for SES:

For SES offered on-school site –

- Transportation will be provided from school to the student's home **or** district designated drop-off location.
- Transportation will be provided by district bus/van to the student's home or the district-designated drop-off location, **or** the district will reimburse parents for mileage for transportation from school to home.

For SES offered off-site –

- Transportation will be provided by district bus/van, **or** the district will reimburse parents for mileage to transport students either from school or home to the provider's approved tutoring location.
- Transportation will only be provided to tutoring locations within district boundaries.
- Transportation from the provider to student homes will be the parents' responsibility.

2. In 2009-2010, Choice will be offered to non-proficient students and SES will be offered to non-proficient poverty students. How will IDOE determine non-proficient students?

Non-proficient students are determined by ISTEP and district/school assessments in non-ISTEP grades. If schools are using the state diagnostic tools, these assessments will determine non-proficient students

in grades K-3. Grade 3 ISTEP results would not be available at the beginning of the year; therefore, other assessments must be used to determine proficiency.

3. If this is a pilot, can my school opt out?

No. The Differentiated Accountability Model replaces the requirements for school improvement under Section 1116 of NCLB.

4. Who will participate in the Indiana Teacher's Reading Academy (ITRA) and what is the cost?

The Education Service Centers will offer training to all K-3 teachers as well as special education, ESL, Title I teachers and principals, either during the school year or in the summer. The Education Services Centers have agreed to charge \$225.00 per person. Please contact your service center (even if you are not a member) to make arrangements for the training. A calendar is being created to indicate trainings that are scheduled.

5. What if my teachers have already participated in the ITRA?

Teachers will not need to participate again. The only teachers that would need to participate are new teachers or teachers that are assigned a new grade level. Additionally, any special education, Title I, ELL teacher, or the school principal, that has not participated, would be required to attend.

6. Which teachers will participate in Acuity training and when will the training take place?

Two teachers per school will attend the training; Training is mid- to late-August. We would encourage your coach being one of the two that participate.

7. Which teachers will participate in Wireless Generation (WGEN) training and when will the training take place?

Four teachers per school will attend the training; (training sites are scheduled by Wireless Generation); WGEN staff contact the school for an "implementation call" and explain how to sign up for training. We encourage your coach being one of the four that participate.

8. What do I need to purchase for Acuity?

Each school corporation needs a dedicated server from CTB (if there is already at least one school in the corporation using Acuity, the server purchase is a non-issue).

9. What do I need to purchase for Wireless Generation?

Kits are \$154.00 each (must purchase a minimum of three kits, regardless of the grade levels served at the school).

10. How often will we access the students?

WGEN training will take place three times per year plus progress monitoring as needed, and math diagnostic interviews as needed. Acuity assessments (**diagnostic**) will take place four times per year. It is the school's decision to administer the predictive assessments.

11. When are the assessment windows for Wireless Generation (K-2)?

MCLASS: Reading 3D:

*BOY: 8/25/08 to 9/12/08
*MOY: 1/12/09 to 1/23/09
*EOY: 4/27/09 to 5/15/09

* Beginning of year (BOY)
* Middle of year (MOY)
* End of Year (EOY)

MCLASS: Math

*BOY: 9/15/08 to 10/3/08
*MOY: 1/26/09 to 2/6/09
*EOY: 5/4/09 to 5/22/09

Progress Monitoring:

"High Risk students": Every 2 weeks
"Some Risk students": Every 4 weeks
"Low Risk students": As needed

12. When are the assessment windows for Aquity (3-8)?

Diagnostic 1: 10/20/08 – 10/31/08
Diagnostic 2: 1/5/09 – 1/16/09
Diagnostic 3: 3/16/09 – 3/27/09
Diagnostic 4: 5/11/09 – 5/22/09

13. Will there be follow-up professional development?

Yes (for both tools).

14. When will the Indiana Algebra Initiative (IAI) training take place?

The IAI professional development is currently taking place. Because of the timing with the Differentiated Accountability Model, the Comprehensive Group middle schools will need to participate next summer. We are coordinating the IDOE conference that is scheduled in June with this training. More details will be sent to you.

15. Is there a job description for the coaches?

IDOE has a sample job description which we encourage districts to use. However, we understand each district has unique contractual agreements which might hinder some of the responsibilities that are listed in our document.

16. Where/When will the coaches training take place?

All trainings will be held at The Fountains Conference and Banquet Center, 502 East Carmel Drive, Carmel, Indiana 46032-2814. Instructional coaches will

arrange for their own hotel accommodations and travel. The IDOE will provide materials for the coaches. A working lunch will be provided. Registration will begin at 8:00 A.M. and on the travel home day the training will end by 3:30 P.M.

Training #1 (2 days)	- Tuesday, September 9, 2008 - Wednesday, September 10, 2008
Training #2 (2 days)	- Wednesday, November 5, 2008 - Thursday, November 6, 2008 with coaches and <u>principals</u>
Training #3	- Thursday, December 11, 2008
Training #4	- Tuesday, January 27, 2009
Training #5	- Tuesday, February 24, 2009
Training #6	- Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Additionally, the instructional coaches will participate in one hour long phone conference between sessions to obtain on-going support. Generally, five coaches will be paired to participate in the call. Schedules will be sent to the instructional coaches.

17. Will information be shared with coaches and principals regarding the coaching model?

Please plan to participate in the dial-in kick-off on August 27 at 10:00 a.m. (EST). Dial (877)873-8018. The access code is 7296078. You will hear music until IDOE is ready to begin the call. Please do not put your phone on hold or we will all hear music.

18. Is there a job description for the ELL specialist that will work with classroom teachers to ensure appropriate interventions are provided to ELL students?

IDOE has a sample job description which we encourage districts to use.

19. When are corrective action plans due to the IDOE? (comprehensive Year 3 schools and focused-intensive schools)

Corrective Action plans should be submitted to IDOE, Office of Title I Academic Support by October 17, 2008. We would prefer plans be submitted electronically to jmiller@doe.in.gov. There is no set format or

template for this plan. IDOE will meet with a multidisciplinary team and will respond to each plan.

**20. When will school improvement grants be distributed?
(comprehensive schools only)**

Once we get the spreadsheets with projected costs back from the Title I Program Administrators, we can send the allocation along with the school improvement grant application. The grant application should be easy to fill out, as the use of the money has been determined in the Differentiated Accountability Model. We anticipate a September disbursement. Most districts will use other funding to pay for coaches, and then reimburse that fund once the school improvement dollars are disbursed.

21. On one chart I saw the word Targeted and then another says Focused. Why are the charts different?

In our Differentiated Accountability proposal to USDE, we used the terms "Targeted" and "Comprehensive" to refer to schools in improvement. However, at that time we realized that using the term "Targeted" would be confusing because of Targeted Assistance (TAS) and Schoolwide (SWP) schools. Since being approved for the pilot, we have changed the term "Targeted" in the proposal to "Focused" schools. Neither Focused or Comprehensive has anything to do with TAS or SWP, which have not changed. Focused schools means a school that is lower on the Index Rating because it is closer to meeting AYP targets and more cells are making AYP. Comprehensive schools are higher/more in need on the Index Rating because of being further away from meeting AYP targets and having more cells missing AYP. Comprehensive schools have more requirements but will receive School Improvement grants.

22. How long will this pilot last?

Approval of Indiana's proposal is for a period up to four years, from 2008-2009 through the 2011-2012 school year, unless reauthorization of the ESEA changes the requirements on which Indiana's model is based, or unless the State does not satisfy the requirements to remain eligible.

23. Will there be opportunities for the principals to participate in a dial-in conference call?

Absolutely! We encourage all principals to participate in additional dial-in calls on August 7 at 3:00 (EST) or August 11 at 9:30 (EST). Calls last approximately 45 minutes. We encourage any other stakeholders to participate in the call as well. Dial (877)873-8018. The access code is 7296078. You will hear music until IDOE is ready to begin the call. Please do not put your phone on hold or we will all hear music.

24. What are the dates for The Institute of School Leadership Teams?

The Comprehensive-Intensive schools will participate in the Summer

Academy June 9, 10 and 11, 2009. The school year sessions will be determined at a later date. The school improvement grant will only cover the Summer Academy as the three school year sessions will be held after September 30, 2009. Because the training goes into the evening hours, we request that all participants stay at the hotel where the training takes place.

25. If my district is currently curriculum mapping, how does this correspond with Differentiated Accountability?

Research from high performing districts share these common principles:

- ♦ A clear, shared vision
- ♦ Useable and useful data at all levels of the district
- ♦ A cohesive and coherent curriculum
- ♦ Engaging instruction
- ♦ Assessment that is aligned with Indiana's high standards
- ♦ On-going, intensive, sustained, content-focused professional development
- ♦ Parent, family and community partnerships that support students learning
- ♦ Shared leadership that is instructionally focused

The Differentiated Accountability Model focuses on most of these principles. Through LEA Improvement corrective action, districts examine their curriculum. Many districts do not have a curriculum in place; therefore, they create a cohesive and coherent curriculum through the curriculum mapping process.

26. Where and when will the IDOE conference be held?

The Effective Schools Conference will be held at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis on June 24 and 25, 2009.

27. When will the on-line modules be available?

IDOE is currently having conversations with universities, Great Lakes East Comprehensive Center, as well as the national content centers. On-line modules will be available during the 2009-2010 school year.

28. Whom do I call if I have questions?

Please contact the Office of Title I Academic Support at 317-232-0540, or toll free at 1-877-418-7240.

*We would like to thank our Committee of Practitioners, as well as the Program Administrators representing each district/charter school that has a school in the comprehensive group, for providing suggestions for the guidelines regarding transportation.